

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) Box for a set of electric storage batteries comprising at least two side walls (12, 14) extending parallel and defining between themselves a housing for receiving the batteries, the box being characterized in that the side walls (12, 14) consist of an assembly of stacked modules (16) each comprising a pair of wall elements (18, 20) mounted opposite each other,

wherein the pair of wall elements (18, 20) are two horizontally opposed wall elements (18, 20) together forming a floor support for any battery stored therebetween, each of the two horizontally opposed wall elements forming a floor support for one edge of each battery stored therebetween.

10. (previously presented) Box according to claim 9, characterized in that each wall element (18, 20) comprises at least one folded edge (24) that defines, jointly with a folded edge of the wall element mounted opposite it, a support for at least one row of batteries.

11. (previously presented) Box according to claim 9, characterized in that it also comprises battery retention means (38).

12. (previously presented) Box according to claim 11, characterized in that the retention means comprise a removable rod (38) extending through the folded edges (22, 24) of the stacked wall elements.

13. (previously presented) Box according to claim 9, characterized in that it also comprises two end plates (28, 30), each provided with fixing lugs (32) for the wall elements (18, 20).

14. (previously presented) Box according to claim 13, characterized in that the end plates are provided with openings (34) for the ventilation of the battery elements.

15. (previously presented) Box according to claim 13, characterized in that the end plates are each provided with a handling point (36) for engagement by a lifting appliance.

16. (previously presented) System of boxes for a set of electric storage batteries, characterized in that it consists of an assembly of boxes (10) according to claim 9.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) ~~The box of claim 9~~ Box for a set of electric storage batteries comprising at least two side walls (12, 14) extending parallel and defining between themselves a housing for receiving the batteries, the box being characterized in that the side walls (12, 14) consist of an assembly of stacked modules (16) each comprising a pair of wall elements (18, 20) mounted opposite each other, and further comprising plural batteries,

each battery supported on a first edge by a base of a module of a first of the two side walls and supported on a second edge, parallel to the first edge, by a base of a module of a second of the two side walls.

19. (previously presented) A battery box, comprising:
plural batteries;

a plurality of like wall elements (18, 20) vertically stacked in two opposing first and second columns; and

two end plates enclosing opposing ends of the two columns,

each wall element including

a base formed of a lower horizontal edge,

a horizontal upper edge for supporting a base of another wall element, and

a vertical section between the lower and upper horizontal edges,

each battery supported on a first edge by a base of an element of the first column and supported on a second edge, parallel to the first edge, by a base of an element of the second column.

20. (cancelled)

21. (new) Box according to claim 18, characterized in that each wall element (18, 20) comprises at least one folded edge (24) that defines, jointly with a folded edge of the wall element mounted opposite it, a support for at least one row of batteries.

22. (new) Box according to claim 18, characterized in that it also comprises battery retention means (38).